Dear Colleagues,

It is with my deepest regret and sorrow that I must inform you of the passing of Professor Emerita of Biology Elizabeth Hortense Leduc, PhD, on January 30, 2010.

Professor Leduc will be sadly missed by all who knew and worked with her. Elizabeth Leduc was known to most people as “Dukie,” spent her childhood near the Canadian border in Vermont, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Vermont in 1943. Subsequently, she obtained a master’s degree from Wellesley College and a PhD from Brown. She held an NIH postdoctoral fellowship at Brown from 1948-49, taught Anatomy at Harvard Medical School from 1949-1953, and then returned to Brown, where she spent the remainder of her career. In 1964, she was appointed a full professor of biology – the third woman to attain that rank in the almost two hundred years of Brown’s existence, and the first in Biology. She was appointed Frank L. Day Professor of Biology in 1975. From 1973-1977, she served as a Dean of Biological Sciences.

During her academic career, Dukie was a widely known and influential scientist. She was a member of 12 professional societies, served on several editorial boards, and was a member of the National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council of the NIH. From 1972-1976, she was a consultant for the National Cancer Institute of Canada. Of special interest to MCB graduate students, she served on the Council of the American Society for Cell Biology from 1976-1980 and during her career, she was mentor for 7 PhD candidates.

Brown honored the outstanding legacy of Professor Leduc by creating the Elizabeth Leduc Award in Life Sciences recognizing teaching excellence. The Leduc Bioimaging Facility was also named in her honor.

Her funeral will be private at the convenience of the family. For more information and condolences, visit TuckerQuinnFuneralChapel.com.

She leaves a great legacy of competency and will be remembered with respect and admiration most notably as a charismatic and accomplished teacher, mentor, and leader. Please join me in remembering Professor Leduc for her great contributions to the Division of Biology and Medicine throughout her career.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Wing, MD
Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences
Frank L. Day Professor of Biology
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University